

The RAYMOND RECORDER

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EMERGENCIES AND ELECTIONS

Every whisper heard backstage in Ottawa suggests that there is a possibility that provincial elections may occur in five provinces across Canada during the next twelve months and that a general election may be in the making either this fall or early summer of next year, with the result that the political air is now what may be termed overcharged with political rumors to such an extent that the man in the street can easily be confused unless he is told what is really being talked about in well-informed circles along Parliament Hill.

It can be reported that the general election machinery is definitely being put into shape so that an appeal will be possible within three months after all the current amendments to the Dominion Election Act are passed in this session. In other words, the mechanics for calling a nation-wide vote should be ready before long. However, there are only the mechanics, the machinery, and the man in the street must be told bluntly that the recurring rumors suggesting a vote this year are by no means supported by veteran observers on Parliament Hill in face of all stories.

The government says political observers in this capital is not likely to call an election on the "hot" freight rate issue. It is true that the government has received support by a comfortable majority, of its policies on the freight rates issue but it is also true that resentment against the increased rates is known to be far from dead. Controls and prices are "hot" issues right now so that an appeal during this year is not likely to be provoked while excited feelings exist on the question, with the expectation that these will exist for some time yet. When a new Liberal leader is chosen in August this year at the national convention in Ottawa it is more than likely that he may want some time before leading his party into an appeal to the people campaign. There are several other important angles which now suggest delay in the calling of a general election this year.

However, with less publicity than it deserves, the greatest likely cause for a delay in calling a vote is the tense international situation which appears to be more critical upon observation "inside" Ottawa than when viewed by the man on the street elsewhere across this country. If the present growing crisis in Europe will reach an emergency state or climax, it is quite unlikely that a general election would occur in 1948 or even 1949 during the early months in particular. This is predicted by veteran observers on Parliament Hill where the European situation is considered as grave and momentarily charged with explosive possibilities more than generally realized.

Evidently it is a fool's paradise to guess or speculate about elections being called at any time in 1948 unless all the above mentioned considerations are taken into account, even if five of the provincial governments should be preparing for tests of public opinion this year or early in 1949.

Their position, it must be said with strong emphasis, is far different than that of the government in Ottawa where the shadows of a deepening crisis overseas are casting serious reflections which may wipe out all thoughts of domestic politics during a crisis or emergency on the international scene.

JUDGEMENT AND CONTROLS

In view of a judgement holding invalid the powers exercised by the government in certain respects under the Emergency Transitional Powers Act, the Government has been asked in the House of Commons if an appeal is being taken against this judgement and what effects this judgement will have on existing controls. In reply, the Minister of Justice, Rt. Hon. J. L. Halsey, has revealed that an appeal is being taken against this judgement. "I would say that so far as I can ascertain the judgement has no effect on existing controls that derive their validity from this Act," said Mr. Halsey pointing out that the validity of the Act itself was affirmed by the judgement. "The authority of the government in council to pass a certain order in council appropriating property was denied in the judgement of Mr. Justice Williams. But I am not aware of any prejudicial effect upon any other controls." Obviously the effect of the judgement, in the opinion of the Minister of Justice is not to unsettle existing controls in Canada.

WAR MEDALS

It is understood here that veterans of World War 2 may not get their complete set of campaign medals and stars for sometime possibly not before 1949, due to the heavy task involved in making the huge number and the fact that the authorities prefer to be able to deliver all rather than in "installments" to some and not to others. The Royal Canadian Mint here is operating with full speed ahead in making these war medals and stars since all the dies have been received from Britain now.

NO REQUESTS

"The United States Government has made no request that the Royal Canadian Air Force should be ex-

panded and it is almost inconceivable that such a request should be made," defence Minister Claxton told Parliament when he was asked by an MP "if any representations" had been made.

SAID IN THE CAPITAL

"The struggle today in many lands, and indeed it has become a world struggle against the age-long one between freedom and tyranny, between democracy and totalitarianism," Premier King told the House of Commons here in emphatic tones. "This may well be the last annual meeting prior to a general election" forecast R.A. Bell, national director of the Progressive-Conservative Party at a meeting in this capital of party followers.

"If we want peace, we must prepare for war" warned the British High Commissioner to Canada, Sir Alexander Clutterbuck during an address here.

"Not being a scientist I am not able to express an opinion on the food values of butter substitutes," remarked Agriculture Minister Gardiner discussing dairy matters at a meeting.

"Faith in the United Nations Organization is the best way of getting away from the current fear of another world war," Maj-Gen E.L. M. Burns declared here.

"We must not confuse this danger of Russian aggression by calling it a political philosophy," said Lt. Col. Merritt, VC MP, emphasizing here that there was real danger of a 2nd World War.

WEEKLY WIND-UP

Senator Wishart Robertson, government leader in the Upper Chamber has stated the legal view on oleomargarine in the light of the Geneva Agreement emphasizing that it was that Canada was not obliged by the Agreement to lift the ban.

A genuine fire test has been made in the famous Parliamentary Library here with flames and all to see if the fire-fighting equipment and precautions can stand a fire, with success being reported for the new sprinkler device. In the 1916 fire of Parliament only the iron doors at

its entrance saved the Library.

The government here is studying closely health insurance legislation which if enacted would affect the daily lives of Canadians as never before, providing a much talked about protection.

It is learned on Parliament Hill that the railways may suffer very little loss of business on account of the freight rate increase to trucks and ships though it has been rumored that shippers may turn these methods of transportation to a large extent where possible to save on shipping.

Canada's last link with the French "Vichy" regime was broken when Rene Riethmeyer, who was formerly the French Vichy Ambassador here, departed. He had remained in Canada after the Government of France changed and at one time was the only Vichy representative located anywhere in the British Empire, particularly during the exciting days of the war.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (continued on back page)

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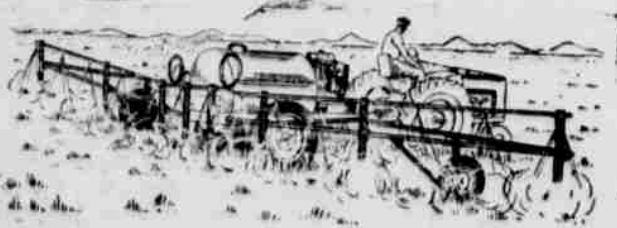
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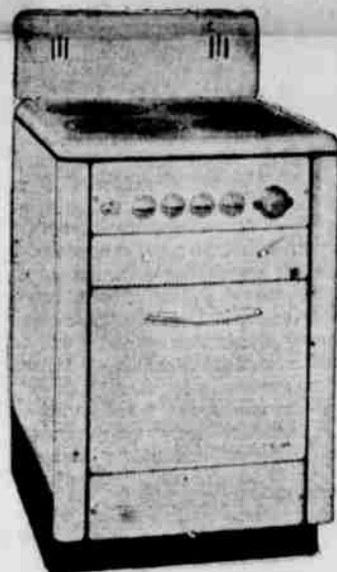
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